

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representative on October 26, 2005.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-30 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Office Action states "The Examiner is not sure if 'a content file' is the same as 'one or more content files' that was introduced before." Consistent with the discussion during the October 26, 2005 interview and consistent with the proposed claim language presented in Applicant's October 28, 2005 facsimile transmission (copy attached), the recitation "a content file" has been changed to "the content file." The recitation of "the content file" refers to any one or more of the content files referred to previously in the claim language rather than any specific content file. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Donohue et al (U.S. '480, hereinafter "Donohue") in view of Christensen et al (U.S. '543, hereinafter "Christensen"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to

one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. The combination of Donohue and Christensen fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest “locating each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system...and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied,” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar comments apply to independent claims 5, 13 and 14 and their respective dependents. The combination of Donohue and Christensen also fails to teach or suggest in a computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system, and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, as required by independent claims 15 and 16 and their respective dependents. The combination of Donohue and Christensen also fails to teach or suggest “automatically processing the or each information-bearing content file in the directory in accordance with the associated template file to thereby generate a corresponding templated information-bearing content file or files, whose appearance is controlled by the associated template file.” Independent claim 27 requires a similar limitation.

Col. 5, lines 24-51 (specifically identified by the Office Action) in Donohue states the following:

“In accordance with still further aspects of the invention, a method is described for automatically inheriting templates within a directory structure on the web server. The method involves designing

and storing a plurality of **document templates on the web server in a hierarchical directory structure**, each document template corresponding to one of a plurality of possible documents which may be requested by users. When a request is received which includes a locator such as a URL identifying a directory and the requested document, the directory identified in the locator is searched for a first default document template corresponding to the requested document. If the first default template exists in the directory, it is selected for use as the document template. If no first default template exists in the directory, the path is changed to a directory which is one level higher than the directory in the hierarchy for a second default template, that is, to the parent directory. If a second default template exists in the parent directory, it is selected for use as the document template. If the second default template does not exist in the parent directory, the two previous steps of changing the path and searching the new directory are repeated until a default template is found or until the highest level directory has been searched. As a result, web site developers and publishers using the template scheme of the present invention will not be required to design and store templates for every conceivable path in the directory, but may rather design only a limited number of templates which are used in a number of circumstances (emphasis added).”

The above portion of Donohue does disclose document template files being associated with a directory structure (see boldface text). However, it does not disclose that content files to which the template files are to be applied are stored in the directories.

The only entity in Donohue that can be possibly equated with the claimed “content files” is the name-value pairs stored in data source 12. However, these name-value pairs are not themselves stored in a directory of a computer file system, let alone a directory to which the template files are associated. The name-value pairs are simply stored as a list in the data source 12.

Page 6 of the Office Action apparently alleges that the “documents” of Donohue constitute content files. However, this term refers to the output generated by populating document templates with data from the name-value pairs. Documents are not themselves

stored in a directory since they represent the combination of a document template and personalized data subsequently sent to a different computer. Col. 5, lines 24-51 fails to disclose an association between a directory storing content files in a document template.

The top of page 4 of the Office Action apparently expresses an appreciation that the name-value pairs of Donohue, rather than the subsequently-generated documents, constitute content files. This portion of the Office Action also apparently acknowledges that templates and content files are not stored in the same directory. Page 4 of the Office Action then alleges “It is clear that the content file is inherent and stored in a directory.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. There is nothing that suggests that the name-value pairs are inherently stored in a directory of the computer file system, let alone a directory to which the template files are directly associated. As noted above, documents in Donohue’s system are not generated until a document template is populated with data from data source 12.

The Office Action then states “Nonetheless, Christensen discloses a search system that the content file and the metadata are stored together in a content wrapper that is organized in a directory (col. 4, lines 55-56, 64-67, col. 5, lines 26-28, col. 6, lines 35-36).” The Office Action is incorrect in alleging that the content wrapper (comprising the content file and metadata) is organized in a directory. As can be clearly appreciated from col. 6, lines 35-36 and corresponding Fig. 5, the directory 54 of Christensen is a data subset of the content wrapper and provides a list of what is in the package and offsets for each part of the file. In other words, the term refers to some sort of index as opposed to a computer organizational unit which within which computer files, programs, etc. can be stored.

Turning again to col. 5, lines 24-31 of Donohue, the Office Action alleges that this portion of Donohue discloses a template directory, each template of which corresponds to a plurality of documents. However, what this paragraph actually states is that the templates correspond to one of a plurality of possible documents. That is, the documents do not exist until the templates are populated with content data.

Even if Donohue and Christensen were combined in the manner suggested by the Office Action, the hypothetical combination would simply result in one list (the meta-content file of Christensen) being substituted in place of another (the name-value list of data source 12 in Donohue). This combination fails to teach or suggest an association of the template file with the directory storing one or more content files. The Donohue/Christensen combination would still work in substantially the same way as outlined by Donohue: (i) a document request is received identifying the user in a document template stored in a directory, (ii) the user identity or login is used to search the “metadata side” of the metadata-content file wrapper (of Christensen) in the data store, and (iii) the document template is populated using the corresponding content file to produce a document. The documents are not stored in a directory, let alone a directory to which template files are directly associated.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-30 are not “obvious” over Donohue in view of Christensen and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

BAGLEY et al.
Application No. 09/889,349
February 8, 2006

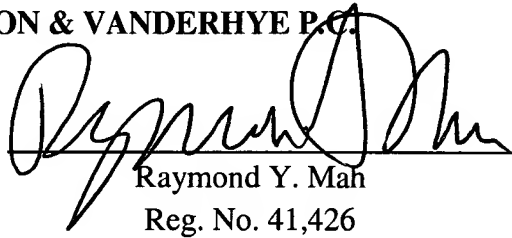
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sarah Lanning
FACSIMILE OPERATOR

ATTACHMENT/S:
Proposed Amendment

MESSAGE:

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of an interview to Applicant's representative on October 26, 2005. As discussed, transmitted herewith is the proposed Amendment.

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Proposed claim language – For discussion purposes only:

1. (Proposed) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

directly associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored and not the at least one content file directly, each template file being effective, when applied to [a] the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file directly associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.

Comments:

The above amendments are supported by, for example, page 4, line 22 *et seq.* of the specification which states *inter alia*:

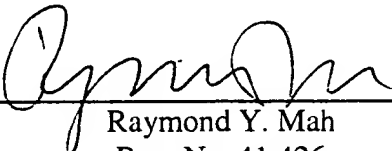
Advantageously, in this way template files are associated not with particular content files as in the prior art, but with the directory in which the content file is stored. Consequently the template chosen to be applied to a given content file may be selected by associating the chosen template with the directory in which the content file is stored or by moving the content file into a directory with which that chosen template is associated. Should a different template be desired to be applied then, instead of the manual re-editing of the 'templated' file produced by the method which would be necessitated by the prior art, quite simply either the different template is associated with the directory in which the content file is

stored, or the content file is moved to a different directory with which the new template is associated, and in either case the method is re-executed.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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